



By the King.

**A Proclamation touching the Counterfeiting Great Seale, Ordered by the
two pretended Houses of Parliament to be put in use.**



Whereas by the Laws and Statutes of this Kingdom, the Counterfeiting of Our Great Seal of England is High Treason, and is so particularly and expressly declared by the Statute made in the five and twentieth year of the Reign of Our Royall Predecessor, King Edward the Third, which Statute and Declaration was then obtained and assented to upon the Petition, and at the instance of the Lords and Commons in that Parliament, for the safety and security of themselves and their Posterity, in regard of the different opinions before that time touching Treason, and what should be laid to be Treason and what not, and hath since by other several Acts of Parliament been ratified and approved to be kept and observed as the Rule and direction for deciding and determining of Treason. And Whereas of late a new Great Seal, without Warrant or Authority from Us, and against Our Will or Consent, hath been traiterously made, and Counterfeited to the substance and littleness of Our Great Seal of England, and by the two pretended Houses of Parliament (or by Persons styling themselves by the name of the Lords and Commons in Parliament aforesaid) doth opprestly lay upon our Subjects, to the ruine and destruction of this Kingdom and Nation, the same is Ordered to be put in use, and that Order published in a printed Paper, intituled, A Declaration and Ordinance of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, touching the Great Seal; Wherein it is likewise declared by them, That all Letters Patents, Grants, Leases, Pardons, and other Acts and things therementioned, which have passed under Our Great Seal, since the time that the same was brought unto Us, shall be invalid, void, and of no effect, and that all and every act or thing, which after the publication of that Ordinance, shall pass by, or under Our Great Seal, or under any Great Seal other than what is therein appointed, should be utterly void, frustrate, and of no effect, usurping thereto themselves, and, as much as in them lies, depriving Us of the means of dispensation of Our Justice, Power, Grace, and Mercy, and of what else is in Us to give or conferre, which are Our principall, known and undoubted Rights inherent and belonging only to Our Crown and Royal Office. We have therefore thought fit to publish this Our Proclamation, whereby to let all Our Subjects know the deep sens we have of this high indignity offered to Us, and the danger whereto they shall incurre by acting, passing, clauing, or obeying any thing which shall passe by, or under that new and Counterfeited Seal, or by colour of the pretended and usurped authority thereto. And We do strictly Charge and Command all pretended Commissioners, and Officers of the said Counterfeited new Great Seal. That they, or any of them, or any other Person or Persons whatsoever, shall not presume to Late any Letters Patents, Pardons, Commissions, Faculties, Writs, or any other Instruments or things whatsoever, Under the said new Counterfeited Great Seal. And We do hereby further straitly Charge and Command all Arch Bishops, Bishops, Arch deacons, Deanes, and their Chancellors, Commissaries, and Officials, and all Judges, Justices, Justices of Peace, and Commissioners of what kinde soever, and all Sheriffs, Bayliffes, Officers and Ministers, and all Our Subjects in general, of what degree, qua no place or fice, or fature on howe they be t ret thys prescne not in any sort, either directly, or indirectly, immediately, or unmediately, to execute any Jurisdiction Power or Authority, Judicial or Ministerial, Ecclesiastical or Temporal, or to act passe, claime, do, or execute any act matter, or thing whatsoever, by, or under, that new and Counterfeited Great Seal, or by colour of pretence of any interest, power, or authority derived from thence, or in any wise to give obedience or allowance thereto, or to any Writs, Comissions, Letters Patents, Grants, Presentations, Leases, Pardons, Faculties, or any other Instrument, act, Writing, or thing whatsoever, to passe under the said Counterfeited Seal, or any way to put the same in use. And We Require a ready and exact obedience from all Our Subjects to this Our just Command, in manner so highly concerning Our Sovereignty, letting them know, that whatsoever shall be done to the contrary, will be invalid, and void in it self, and for doing the contrary, they must expect to undergo the highest and severest penaltys, forfeitures, and punishments, which by the Laws and Statutes of the Kingdom may be imposed or inflicted upon them.

Given at Our Court at Oxford, the 24. day of November, in the Nineteenth year of Our Reign

God save the King.

Imprinted at Bristol by Robert Barker, and
John Bill, Printers to the Kings most Excellent
Majestie, 1643.